

University of Memphis Staff Senate Meeting Minutes October 17, 2013

Present: JoAnn Ammons, Karen Bell, Charles Black, Brigitte Boyd, Lindsey Bray, Ann Brock, DebraAnn Brown, Hugh Busby, Constance Butts, Alfreda Davis, Loren Estes, John Farrell, Brad Frewin, Rosemary Frix, Sharon Harber, Ashley Holloway, Ann Hudson, Georgette Kearney, Robert Marczynski, Nichole McBride, William Mueller, Vickie Peters, Nicholas Racz, Penny Saed, Gina Savell, Kate Sims, Sherri Stephens, Debra Turner

Excused: Dan Bureau, Nick Conway, Ilene Cooper, Debra Cummings, Vonda Dede, Rodney Gray, Lisa Justen, Jennifer Walker, Lofton Wilborn

Unexcused: Marco Anderson, LaTondra Arnett, Bradley Arnold, Barbara Bekis, Pam Chambers, Candy Donald, Emma Elliott, Blake Galbreath, Racheal Hall, Riviera Hollowell, Larrick Johnson, Amy Jones, Keri Means, Kutanya Niter, Brian Wilcox, Gary Yarbrough

President Hugh Busby called the meeting to order

Roll Call

Approval of August Minutes

- Motion to approve by Vickie Peters
- Second by Robert Marczynski

New Business

- Homecoming Discussion
 - President Busby brought up several ideas for the parade including
 - Senators walking and holding our "Staff Senate" banner
 - Wear 'Tiger Blue', carry balloons, pompoms, and have beads to throw to the crowd
 - Pulling wagons to hold the candy for throwing
 - Senator Sharon Harbor suggested contacting the Alumni Center for balloons, helium and pompoms as they often let campus groups have them for free.
 - During the remainder of the meeting President Busby circulated a sign-up sheet to gauge the Senators' interest in participation.

- It was announced that President Hugh Busby would be receiving the “Eye of the Tiger” award during half-time of the football game on Saturday, October 19th.
- Senator Bridgette Batts asked: When Senators receive questions from constituents is it appropriate to refer them to the suggestion box on our Staff Senate web site.
 - President Busby answered: Yes, and to remind them that if they choose not to enter their name and email address their comments or questions will be anonymous. However, we will also be unable to respond directly to the person without either their name or email address.

Committee Reports

- Budget: The Staff Senate currently has \$3,958 in the budget.
- Issues & Review: No report
- Campus Safety and Security: No report – have not yet met this month.
- Facilities and Services: No report
- Fee Refunds and Appeals: No report
- Food Services/Dining: No report
- Public Records and Forms: No report
- Space Planning: No report
- Traffic and Parking: No report
- Policy and Review: No report
- Sustainability: No report
- Bylaws committee: No report
- ESAC: No report

Announcements

- UMAR- see their web site for upcoming events and details
<http://www.memphis.edu/alumni/clubs/umar.php>

Questions/Concerns

- Senator Robert Marczynski began a discussion about the recent Town Hall meetings.
 - Staff members reported not feeling invited to these kinds of meetings.
 - Vice President Sherri Stephens noted that email invitations and reminders for the Town Hall meetings went to all faculty and staff.
 - Many staff members who did attend said the information was focused on faculty, that staff-related concerns were not addressed nearly as much.
 - The main concern staff members have – will there be layoffs – was not fully answered which left many employees feeling uneasy.

- Senator Vickie Peters stated that Staff Senators used to have a list of the employees within their clusters so that senators could send their constituents notifications of events such as the Town Hall meetings. She asked if those lists still exist and if not can we create them again.
 - Senator Lindsey Bray stated that the previous lists were taken from the voting rolls used during the Staff Senate elections. Her concern with using them again was that the lists are only accurate at the time the elections are held and as staff members move positions, leave the university, and new ones are hired the lists would soon be inaccurate.
 - Senator Alfreda Davis stated she does not know who all of her constituents are and asked if there was an easy way to find out without the election list.
 - Senator Bray responded that our Staff Senate web site has a list of university departments sorted by cluster that can help identify which staff members each Senator represents.

- Senator Sharon Harber asked if we have been able to set a date for the Provost to address the Senate yet.
 - Senator Harber indicated that if we could get a date set it would give us a good opportunity to gather questions/concerns from our constituents ahead of time.

Meeting Adjourned

- Motion to Adjourn: Robert Marczynski
- Second: Sharon Harbor